

POOR ORIGINAL

SEP 5 1980

NOTICE OF NON-ROUTINE EVENT INVOLVING AGREEMENT STATE OR
AGREEMENT MATERIALS - 80-30

This NOTICE constitutes an early report of events occurring in an Agreement State of possible safety or public interest significance. The information presented is as initially received without verification or evaluation and is basically all that is known by State Agreements Program staff as of this date.

AGREEMENT STATE: Nevada

FACILITY: Nuclear Engineering Co. (NECO), Beatty

SUBJECT: Incidents at Low Level Rad Waste Burial Site

Nevada informed OSP of 3 incidents in 8 days at the Beatty, Nevada burial site involving low level rad waste shipments arriving at the site which did not conform with regulatory requirements. In the most recent case, a shipment of waste from Aerojet, California, consisting of drums and boxes was off-loaded into trenches without incident. However, when the licensee prepared to cover the waste, oil was discovered leaking out of one of the boxes supposedly containing only dry waste. The box was opened and a 55 gallon drum containing oil was discovered. The incident occurred September 3rd.

Other incidents occurred on August 28 and September 2. In the former, a shipment from General Electric, Vallecitos, California, consisting of a large wooden box and Type B cask arrived with liquid leaking out of the box. The liquid was not radioactive but the box contents were. Additionally, it was discovered the box had been moved on the truck. Since the shipment was exclusive use, this is an apparent violation of DOT requirements and DOT will follow up. The latter incident involved a shipment of drums containing waste contaminated with natural uranium from Allied Chemical, Illinois. When the next to last drum was moved to be placed into the trench, the contents came out of the bottom of the barrel.

There has been considerable publicity given to these incidents in the State. The Board of Health is scheduled to hold a hearing on September 10-11, 1980 on whether or not to deny NECO's application for renewal of the license.

Nevada has temporarily banned all 3 generators from use of the site. Since Aerojet has been involved in a previous case (See Non-Routine Event Nos. 79-10 and 10A dated 5/14 and 5/17/79) Nevada is working closely with California. California is holding a meeting today with Aerojet and GE to discuss the matter.

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